GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2567
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2007
FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND THAILAND
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and Thailand may falter in the absence of consensus regarding the service sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has initiated any negotiations on services and investment sector between the two countries;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(e) the number of items so far identified for tariff cuts under the FTA; and

(f) the details of items which both countries have agreed for tariff cuts?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d) For India-Thailand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations are ongoing, including negotiations of goods, services and investment. As part of discussions on Services, India has tabled its Initial Request List to Thailand, Text on Movement of Natural Persons, Financial Services and Text on Trade in Services chapter. Thailand has also submitted its Initial Request List. Under the Investment Sector India has provided the initial offer for Schedule of Commitments. Services and Investment negotiations are ongoing.

(e) and (f) An Early Harvest Scheme (EHS) of eliminating tariff on 82 items covering 82 products is under implementation with effect from 1.9.2004. A list of these items can be seen at http://commerce.nic.in/. Further negotiations in Trade in Goods are ongoing.